

Adverse Childhood Experiences Reported by Adults, Montana, 2011

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Background

- Adverse childhood experiences (ACE) include verbal, physical, or sexual abuse, & family dysfunction (incarcerated, mentally ill, or substance abusing household member; domestic violence; or absence of a parent due to divorce/separation).
- Previous studies suggest that ACEs are associated with poor health outcomes (e.g., substance use, tobacco use, premature mortality).
- Epidemiologic studies indicate that ACEs are common among adults in the U.S.

Montana Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

- Surveillance system operated by Montana in collaboration with CDC since 1984.
- Telephone survey conducted by trained interviewers using a standardized questionnaire & data collection system.
- Probability sample of non-institutionalized Montana adults.
- Includes both cell and land lines.
- 5,855 completed surveys (Jan - Jul 2011).

Survey questions related to ACE

- 11 questions included in the survey related to ACEs
 - Verbal abuse (1)
 - Physical abuse (1)
 - Sexual abuse (3)
 - Household member with mental illness (1)
 - Household member incarcerated (1)
 - Parents separated or divorced (1)
 - Substance abuse among household member (2)
 - Witnessed domestic violence (1)
- Questions were modified from a large Kaiser-CDC ACE study

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of respondents, Montana, 2011

	%
Sex	
Male	49
Female	51
Age (years)	
18-34	28
35-54	35
55+	37
Education	
<High school	19
High school	29
>High school	52
Race	
White, non-Hispanic	90
American Indian/Alaska Native	5
Other or Hispanic	5

Figure 1. Percentage of adults aged 18 years and older reporting adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), by ACE category, Montana, 2011.

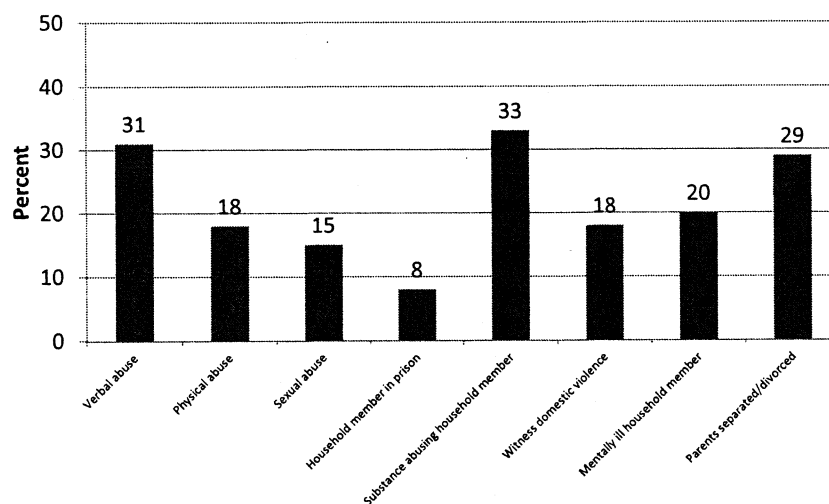
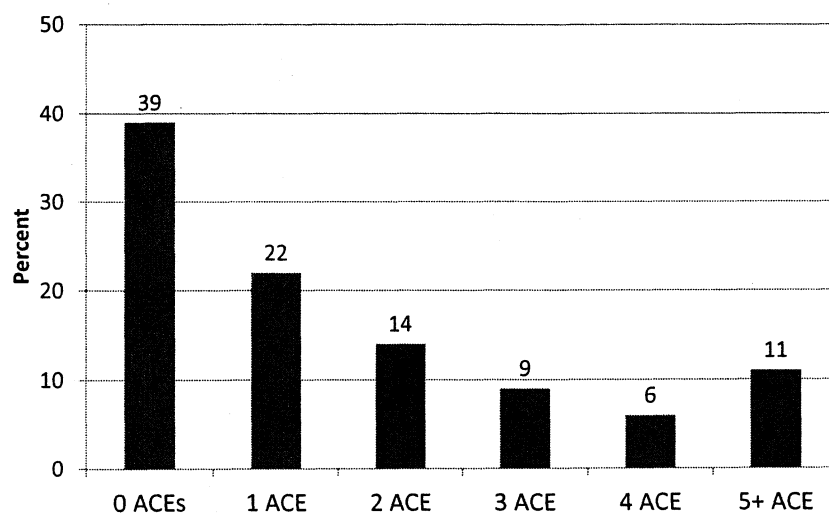


Figure 2. Percentage of adults aged 18 years and older reporting adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), by number of ACEs reported, Montana, 2011.



Differences in reported ACEs by selected demographic characteristics.

- No differences in the percentage of respondents reporting 5+ ACEs by gender.
- Younger respondents aged 18-24 years old were more likely to report 5+ ACEs (17%) compared to respondents aged 55 years and older (7%).
- Respondents without a high school education were more likely to report 5+ ACEs (25%) compared to respondents with greater than a high school education (9%).
- Respondents with lower household incomes were also more likely to report 5+ ACEs compared to respondents with higher household incomes.

Limitations to the BRFSS

- Prevalence of ACEs may be underestimated because:
 - Institutionalized adults are not included
 - Respondents may under report specific ACEs
- Preliminary data for 2011.
- Small sample size for specific demographic subgroups.
- Final 2011 data available in 2012.

Conclusions:

- History of ACEs common among adult Montanans.
- Most frequently reported ACEs include substance abuse among household members and verbal abuse.
- 60% of adult Montanans reported ≥ 1 ACE & one in ten reported 5+ ACEs.
- State-based surveillance of ACEs is useful.
- CDC is developing & evaluating potential interventions addressing childhood maltreatment.